

By Mayor Ben Garlich

I always end my monthly articles with the same tag line. One of the elements of this closing tag line is “be involved”.

Last week I attended the funeral of a lifelong resident of our Village, Stella Ohl. Not only was she a resident, she was also a neighbor and friend. During the celebration of life ceremony, many of Stella’s qualities were recited. I know from personal experience, Stella was a person of conviction and character and even though small in stature she stood tall in discussions of importance. She often called me regarding issues of concern and I appreciated her input. Stella also was the definition of “be involved”. Stella was a member of the Middlefield Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary for 55 years. She stayed active in this group from 1957-2012. Stella was not a member in name only she was a working member and with her effort and the effort of others both physical and financial support were provided for many causes for the betterment of our community. I will miss her.

I am concerned we are all so busy and becoming so self-absorbed that we do not feel the need or have the energy to contribute to those activities that better our community. I hope we all will evaluate where we can add value to strengthen the area we live. I hope we are instilling in our youth the value of giving back for the benefit of the whole.

This winter had a slow start but has certainly made up for lost time. I’ve seen reports on many tragic accidents and fortunately not personally been involved or known anyone that has been involved in one of these events.

I appreciate your patience as the service crew struggles to keep roads and sidewalks plowed. We are fortunate to have good equipment, dedicated staff of service, police and fire. I thank all of these staff members and appreciate your effort to protect and serve in all conditions. I enjoy the fact that I can purchase all my needs within a mile of my residence. Please conduct yourself safely as we all look forward to better weather.

Be involved, be informed, shop local and visit www.middlefieldohio.com.